

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Restoration Coordination Team**  
**Conference call 01-31-07, 3:00pm CST**

**Participants:**

**Drew Puffer (EPA)**  
**Bobbi Reed (GMF)**  
**Kristopher Benson (NOAA)**  
**Larry Parson (USACE)**  
**Tom Calnan (TGLO)**  
**Chris David (NOAA)**  
**Columbus Brown (USFWS)**  
**Robert Seyfarth (MDEQ)**  
**Bill Walker (MDMR)**  
**Randy Runnels (FDEP)**  
**Bob Bosenberg (USACE)**

**Greg DuCote (LDWF)**  
**Carl Ferraro (ALDNR)**  
**Miles Croom (NOAA)**  
**John Iliff (NOAA)**  
**Quenton Dokken (GoMF)**  
**John Bowie (EPA)**  
**Bruce Baird (MMS)**  
**Dawn LaVoie (USGS)**  
**Dugan Sabins (LADEQ)**  
**Rafael Calderon (TNC)**

**1.) Presentation of NOAA/NMFS report to congress under MSA**

Jl: NMFS is tasked with reporting to congress under re-authorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act, within 180 days after signing, regarding impacts to fishery habitat from hurricanes of 2005 & 2006. The report represents an opportunity to highlight the activities of the GOMA and the RRCT and to encourage continued support for the efforts. Report will consist of identification of impacts, description of significance, identification of ongoing actions to mitigate impacts, and recommendations for additional action. Schedule for drafting is short.

CB: USFWS contacts should be consulted, particularly with regard to impacts to National Wildlife Refuges.

DL: USGS contacts also for land loss analysis.

BW: From MS, contact Corky Perret.

MC: Ric Reubsamen is currently contacting local reps with fed and state agencies for identification of impacts.

JB: Document should incorporate guidance/BMPs for restoration of impacted areas.

CB: Response on federal lands has been limited due to conflicts with other laws. GOMA Federal Work Group should be made aware of opportunity to contribute to the report.

KB: Will pass along to FWG.

MC: Bear in mind, any comments will go through rigorous review at NOAA HQ before final draft is presented to congress.

**2.) Update on GMP/Gulf Alliance Proposals**

DP: Applicants Gulf of Mexico Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been notified that their proposals have been accepted for at least partial funding. GMF is working with grant managers to fast-track funding for support of the RRCT's round-robin meetings, and TPWD is trying to determine if staff is available to implement the project (freshwater inflows workshop) after the retirement of applicant Dave Busan.

**3.) Update on the logistics for the upcoming workshop**

BR: About to finalize contract with hotel (Microtel Suites), will send out e-mail soon with details. Please consider transportation needs (rental cars will likely be necessary). May be able to coordinate shuttle to & from hotel & conference facility. Invites will go out soon as well, and any state reps with travel to be paid by GMF should coordinate ASAP if not already; GMF needs to verify numbers.

CF: ~45 local (AL) participants possible, plus MS participants. Dates of Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> will likely be busiest, while the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> will probably be smaller groups. Conference facilities plans will take this into account.

#### **4.) Discussion of State agendas**

CF: AL agenda is set and has been e-mailed to the team. MS/AL Sea Grant expanded lunch session demonstration of restoration database has been confirmed.

DP: MS agenda has also been e-mailed to the team.

RS: MS agenda fairly well fleshed out and speakers confirmed. Any gaps?

CB: Grand Bay NERR stewardship talk should coordinate with Grand Bay NWR staff, local TNC staff.

RC: TNC staff are not yet involved; will contact.

CB: Doug Fruge could also contribute to discussion of diversions on the Pearl River.

KB: Is there an opportunity to identify hurdles/obstacles to implementing restoration in MS? Is last session of day available for this?

BW: Primary obstacles are funding-related.

RS: Will leave last session open for discussion.

#### **5.) Discussion of GRSMMP agenda**

LP: Agenda developed during last RSMMP team conference call; has been e-mailed to RRCT with call notes. Will add a session with Corps representatives speaking about specific dredging projects to the agenda. PHINS overview may be appropriate to incorporate into GRSMMP agenda also. With regard to the "products" that should result from the work of the GRSMMP team, workshops should provide effective tools for impacting regional sediment management policies. Will assign specific names to discussion topics. Should have revised agenda prior to Feb. 9 when the next GRSMMP conference call will be held.

#### **6.) Additional discussion & reminders for next call**

TC: TX reps met at GBEP symposium and determined week of May 21 to be first choice for TX round-robin workshop, in Galveston TX. Second choices are week of May 14 and Clear Lake, TX.

RR: FL workshop to be held during Aug. or Sept., ideally (travel easiest for Tampa Bay area at that time of year.)

KB: Next call Feb. 21 at 3:00pm CST, to avoid FWG meeting & travel.

[General agreement]

**Meeting adjourned at ~ 4:15pm CST.**